

### REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 28 through 164 and 173 through 192 are pending, with Claims 29, 38, 39, 44, 49, 50, 58, 66, 67, 79, 80, 92 through 95, 105, 114, 124, 133 through 135, 139, 142, 145, 148, 152, 155, 158, 161 through 164, 173, 181, 182, 187, and 192 being independent.

As discussed with the Examiner by telephone, page 3 of the August 27, 2003 Preliminary Amendment inadvertently, mistakenly states that Claims 155 through 172 are cancelled, which should have read --165-- through 172, since Claims 155 through 164 are set forth in the complete listing of the claims from that Preliminary Amendment. And the instant Official Action indicates that Claims 155 through 161, 163, and 164 are not pending. As discussed with the Examiner, Applicants respectfully submit that such claims are in fact pending, and their examination together with the elected group earnestly is solicited.

In response to the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Official Action, Applicants provisionally elect Group I (Claims 29 through 38, 67 through 154, and 173 through 192) with traverse, ask that Claims 155 through 161, 163, and 164 be examined therewith, and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement. Applicants submit that all of the claims could be searched by one Examiner without undue effort. Applicants also believe that it is not mandatory to make a restriction requirement in every possible situation. Applicants believe that if one Examiner acts on all of the claims of the present application, overall examining time will be less than if multiple Examiners are involved. Applicants also earnestly believe that the examination of all of the claims by one Examiner in the present application will best ensure uniform prosecution quality.

Therefore, in the interest of prosecution economy of time and quality for both the Office and Applicants, Applicants respectfully submit that withdrawal of the restriction requirement in this application is appropriate.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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